WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image file for storing a digital image and information related to the digital image, including:

   a) digital image data;

   b) a user identifier; and

   c) affective information which relates to the feelings or emotions of the user toward the digital image.

2. The image file of claim 1 wherein the affective information further specifies the time or period within a range of times that the classification was performed.

3. The image file of claim 1 wherein the affective information identifies the importance of the image.

4. The image file of claim 1 wherein the image file further includes information related to the capture device.

5. The image file of claim 1 wherein the image data is a JPEG compressed image data.

6. The image file of claim 1 wherein the digital image file includes affective information and user identifiers for a plurality of users.

7. A method for providing a retrieval scheme for stored digital images, using the image file of claim 6, comprising the steps of:

   a) a retrieval user providing a user identifier;

b)   using the user identifier provided by the retrieval user to select, from the plurality of affective information, the particular affective information associated with the retrieval user; and

c)   using the affective information to facilitate image retrieval.

8.   The method of claim 7 wherein the affective information identifies the importance of the image to a plurality of users.

9.   The method of claim 7 wherein the affective information is used to determine the order of presentation of retrieved images.

10.   The image file of claim 1 wherein the affective information is provided by monitoring the facial expression of the user.

11.   The image file of claim 1 wherein the affective information is provided by monitoring the physiology of the user.

12.   The image file of claim 1 wherein the affective information is provided by a user interface which enables the user to indicate important images.